

Coinage bills for collectors

By Roger Boye

Lawmakers in Washington have given collectors an early Christmas gift by approving two more commemorative coin programs.

One of the coinage bills—passed in the final hours of the 100th Congress—calls for production of three types of coins to honor the U. S. Congress bicentennial in 1989. Up to \$20 million of profits from coin sales to hobbyists will help fund a U. S. Capitol Preservation Commission, which has yet to be formed.

"The Capitol Building is in bad need of refurbishing," said Curtis A. Prins, staff director of the House Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs and Coinage. "This coin program gives us a way to make some improvements."

Prins said it is likely that President Reagan will sign the legislation, although he had not done so by Oct. 31. Subcommittee chairman Frank Annunzio (D., Ill.), one of two congressmen who introduced the bill, has said he hopes the preservation commission eventually will establish a coin museum in the U.S. Capitol, although the legislation does not require the commission to do that, Prins said.

The other commemorative coin bill, signed by the President on Oct. 3, authorizes the U.S. Mint to make 1990-dated silver dollars honoring the 100th anniversary of the birth of President Eisenhower. The dollars will depict Eisenhower on one side and his Gettysburg, Pa., home on the other. Profits from coin sales will be applied to the national debt.